





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2011 Contact: Adisa Busuladzic Phone: +93 (0) 70 2636 328 Email: abusuladzic@usaid.gov

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Development Agency in Afghanistan Commemorates World Food Day

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | OCTOBER 16, 2011 – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Afghanistan joined the global community in observing World Food Day today. USAID used this occasion to express hope that Afghanistan, with the help of USAID and other members of the donor community, will be able to transform and revitalize its agricultural sectors to grow enough food to sustainably feed its people, diversify its economy, and ultimately achieve food security.

As a drought-prone country, Afghanistan faces numerous challenges in fighting food insecurity. In partnership with the Afghan Government, the United Nations' World Food Program, community development councils, and non-governmental organizations, USAID provides assistance through a range of relief and recovery programs, including food for work, food for training, and food for education. USAID's Food for Peace Office recently approved \$40 million for the World Food Program in Afghanistan. This assistance will go to Badghis, Faryab, Jawzjan, Sari-i-Pul, Samangan and Balkh, six northwestern Afghan provinces where, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, drought was most severe in terms of its impact on food security. Through the early warning system in Afghanistan, USAID quickly identifies vulnerable populations and provides critical information to mitigate the negative effects of climate-induced food shortages.

U.S. Government agricultural assistance in Afghanistan focuses on improving food security, increasing agricultural productivity and rural employment, and strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to deliver services effectively.

Inaugurated in 1981, World Food Day increases awareness, understanding, and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger and food insecurities in the world.

###

For more information about USAID's programs, please visit: http://afghanistan.usaid.gov

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years.



USAID on Facebook





